(c) if so, what are the main recommendations made by the Committee and to what extent Government has agreed to implement their suggestions; and

(d) whether any final decision for implementation has been considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (d) The Empowered Committee at its meeting held on 3rd November, 2008 in Chandigarh discussed the issue of the impact of the global financial meltdown on their revenue growth. The Committee did not decide on any measures to be taken. However, some States have recently started experiencing lower rate of growth in their tax collection and apprehend that eventually it may adversely affect their revenues.

Merger of posts

*218. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 369 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st October, 2008 and state:

(a) the date from which the merger of posts in the pre-revised scales of Rs.6500-10500 and Rs.7450-11500 has been made effective;

(b) the details of the posts so merged, Ministry-wise and Department-wise;

(c) the details of the procedure followed to decide the *inter-se* seniority of the cadre after the merger of the posts; and

(d) if no such directions have been issued, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) As per the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission, certain posts in the pre-revised scales of Rs.6500-10500 and Rs.7450-11500 have been merged with effect from 1.1.2006. These posts are spread across various Ministries and Departments. Merger of the scales will have no impact on the *inter-se* seniority which existed as on 1.1.2006.

Air turbine fuel under declared goods category

*219. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any proposal to declare the Air Turbine Fuel (ATF) under declared goods category;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government is yet to take a final view on Ministry of Civil Aviation's proposal to place Aviation Turbine Fuel in the category of "declared goods" under the CST Act, 1956.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.